

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 EB-11 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

OMB-01 A-01 M-02 NIC-01 CU-05 NASA-04 SCI-06 IO-14

DRC-01 EUR-25 /174 W

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P 161130Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9700

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF BOMB INCIDENT AT DAMASCUS FAIR

REF: DAMASCUS 1667

1. SEVERAL BEIRUT PAPERS TODAY REPORT BOMB INCIDENT AT AMERICAN PAVILLION AT DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR. MOST PAPERS CARRY ITEM INCONSPICUOUSLY ON INSIDE PAGES UNDER HEADLINES SUCH AS: "COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION CLAIMS DESTRUCTION OF AMERICAN PAVILION AT DAMASCUS FAIR." HOWEVER, PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" BANNERS "DESTRUCTION OF AMERICAN PAVILION AT DAMASCUS FAIR" ON PAGE ONE.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, HITERTO UNKNOWN GROUP STYLING ITSELF "ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION" CLAIMED IN ITS "COMMUNIQUE NUMBER ONE" DISTRIBUTED BY HAND IN BEIRUT THURSDAY THAT "ON EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1974, OUR GROUPS WORKING IN SYRIAN ARAB REGION CARRIED OUT DEMOLITION OPERATION
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WITH AIM OF DESTROYING AMERICAN PAVILION BUILDING AT DAMASCUS INTER-

NATIONAL FAIR. COMRADE MEMBERS OF GROUP RETURNED SAFELY TO THEIR BASES AFTER DESTROYING LARGE PART OF PAVILION BUILDING AND CAUSING HEAVY DAMAGE TO CONTENTS OF EXHIBIT. ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, IN ANNOUNCING ITS COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACT, CONFIRMS TO STRUGGLING AND WORKING MASSES THROUGHOUT ARAB NATION THAT ITS ARMED STRUGGLE IS STEP ON ITS REVOLUTIONARY ROAD, WHICH AIMS TO DESTROY POSITIONS OF IMPERIALISM AND PUT AN END TO DICTATORSHIP OF LOCAL BOURGEOISIES AND ARAB REACTIONARIES, THE ALLIES OF IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM."

3. ALSO ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, -DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" IN BEIRUT CONFIRMED THAT INCIDENT DID OCCUR, SAYING THAT SMALL EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN AMERICAN PAVILION SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT THURSDAY MORNING, THAT NO ONE WAS INJURED, AND THAT DAMAGE WAS LIGHT AND WAS REPAIRED IN MORNING.

4. COMMENT. IT STRIKES US THAT SYRIAN SUCCESS IN DAMPENING PUBLICITY IN DAMASCUS MAY HAVE BROUGHT PERPETRATORS OF INCIDENT TO SEEK THEIR PUBLICITY IN BEIRUT. "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" CITED IN NEWSPAPER REPORTS DID NOT INCLUDE THIS EMBASSY. WE PLAN TO REFER ALL QUESTIONS TO EMBASSY DAMASCUS.

GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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